



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



OCTOBER 10, 2003

Examples of the Bush Administration's Failure to Plan Adequately for Iraq Operations

- 1. Iraqi response to the occupation was underestimated.**
Press reports indicate that, despite intelligence analysis predicting resistance to occupation, Pentagon planners assumed that U.S. forces would be welcomed as liberators, and calculated force projections based on those assumptions. [*Pincus, "Spy Agencies Warned of Iraq Resistance," Washington Post, 9/9/03*]
- 2. Condition of the Iraqi infrastructure was underestimated.**
The \$87 billion supplemental request is expected to include \$2.1 billion on top of the \$1 billion already obligated to rehabilitate the oil infrastructure and secure domestic consumption -- a total that is more than two and a half times greater than the amount projected less than two months ago. [*Skorneck, "Waxman, Dingell Want to Know Why Iraq Oilfield Cost Soared to More than \$3 Billion," CQ Today, 9/15/03*]
- 3. Costs of the war and reconstruction were underestimated.**
At the start of the war, Administration officials believed that Iraq could "finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon" and that oil revenues "could bring in between \$50 and \$100 billion over the course of the next two or three years;" [*Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, testimony to Congress, March 27, 2003*]
Despite providing \$63 billion for Iraq earlier this year, Congress will soon be asked to provide over \$70 billion more, including an additional \$2.1 billion just to restore oil production. [*Skorneck, "Waxman, Dingell Want to Know Why Iraq Oilfield Cost Soared to More than \$3 Billion," CQ Today, 9/15/03*]
- 4. Impact of the occupation on U.S. ability to address military requirements worldwide was underestimated.**
The General Accounting Office warned the Defense Department in August that deployment schedules for Iraq could compromise military readiness;
The Congressional Budget Office predicted in September that the Army's current troop level in Iraq could not be sustained without keeping individual units deployed there for more than one year without relief.

Source: Office of the Democratic Leader



Kathleen Gearin, Ramsey County District Court Judge, visited Rep. Betty McCollum's Washington office this week during a trip celebrating the 25th anniversary meeting of the National Association of Women Judges.

Next Week on Betty's Schedule

- October 13 - Meeting with members of Asian Women United, Civil Society and Domestic Abuse Project to announce a Federal Grant for fighting domestic violence in Minnesota**
- October 13 - Meeting with St. Joseph's Hospital employees**
- October 15 - Reception hosted by Women's International Democracy Center toasting Senator Hilary Rodham Clinton**
- October 15 - Meeting with Career College Association regarding the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act**

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

Washington Office: 1029 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 ♦ phone / (202) 225-6631 ♦ fax / (202) 225-1968

St. Paul Office: 165 Western Ave. N., #17, St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ phone / (651) 224-9191 ♦ fax / (651) 224-3056

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